

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 /165 W

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R 250641Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1746

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 5258

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 3671

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IS, JO

SUBJ: ISRAELI OIL ACTIVITIES ON WEST BANK

REF: TEL AVIV 3037

1. WE WOULD LIKE TO RAISE FOR DEPARTMENT SEVERAL ISSUES
GENERATED BY REFTEL WHICH REPORTED COMMENCEMENT OF OIL
PROSPECTING ACTIVITIES ON WEST BANK BY ISRAELI OIL
PROSPECTING COMPANY TWENTY PERCENT OWNED BY US PARTNER
APACHE GAS COMPANY.

2. OUR CONCERN EXTENDS TO BOTH POLITICAL AND LEGAL
QUESTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE RAISED BY ACTIVITIES OF US FIRM
ON WEST BANK. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE AREA WAS INCORPORATED
INTO HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN BETWEEN 1948 AND 1967
AND HAS BEEN UNDER ISRAELI MILITARY OCCUPATION SINCE
1967. WE ARE CURRENTLY UNAWARE, DUE TO DESTRUCTION OF
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FILES AT POST SEVERAL TIMES SINCE 1967, OF EXACTLY WHAT

POSITION DEPARTMENT AND USG HAVE TAKEN ON SUCH ISSUES AS ACTIVITIES OF US FIRM ABOVE GENERATE.

3. PRINCIPAL QUESTION RAISED FOR US IS HOW SUCH ACTIVITIES WILL AFFECT OUR RELATIONS WITH GOJ. WHILE SEVEN YEARS OF ISRAELI OCCUPATION HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY DULLED REACTIONS IN AMMAN, GOJ STILL NATURALLY CONCERNED OVER ACTIONS ON WEST BANK WHICH TEND TO CREATE FACTS WHICH UNDERMINE JORDANIAN CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTY, PARTICULARLY IF US NATIONAL FIRM IS PARTNER IN SUCH ACTIVITIES. IN LIGHT OF CLOSE US-GOJ RELATIONS, WE WONDER WHAT EXPLANATIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN IN PAST, IF SIMILAR CASE HAS EVER ARISEN, TO GOJ ABOUT SUCH ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF SUPPORT WHICH USG GIVES TO JORDAN IN ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN AN AGREEMENT ON CONCRETE STEPS TOWARD MIDDLE EAST PEACE BETWEEN JORDAN AND ISRAELI IN WEST BANK.

4. WE WONDER FOR EXAMPLE WHETHER OR NOT US FIRMS SO PARTICIPATING HAVE BEEN MADE AWARE OF PAST US STATEMENTS ON WEST BANK AND ISRAELI SETTLEMENT AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES THERE. WE NOTE THAT REFTEL IN PARA FIVE TOUCHES ON SUCH POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. WE WONDER WHETHER ISRAELI PARTNER WOULD BE QUITE SO FREE ABOUT PAYING ROYALTIES TO JORDAN. WE WONDER ALSO WHETHER FIRM HAS CONSIDERED POSSIBILITY OF IMPOSITION OF ROYALTIES EX POST FACTO TO COVER ANY PERIOD OF PRODUCTION DURING ISRAELI MILITARY OCCUPATION SHOULD JORDANIANS SUCCEED IN AGAIN EXERCISING SOVEREIGNTY IN WEST BANK.

5. WE ARE UNINFORMED HERE AS TO EXACTLY WHAT POSITION, IF ANY, USG HAS TAKEN ON PRESENT ISRAELI MILITARY OCCUPATION AND ITS LEGAL EFFECTS ON ACTIVITIES OF US FIRMS IN ADDITION TO POLITICAL PROBLEMS WHICH IT PRESENTS FOR US-JORDANIAN RELATIONS AS OUTLINED ABOVE. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR A REVIEW OF THIS ISSUE BY LEGAL ADVISOR AND A STATEMENT FOR OUR BACKGROUND AND POSSIBLE USE COVERING LEGAL ISSUES.
PICKERING

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